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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE 8/18/56

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SUBJECT: Defense Recruiting of German Scientists

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Charles Weaver, Defense
Colonel George Brown, Defense
Mr. Stephen Loftus, Defense
Mr. William K. Miller, GER
Mr. Walter Rudolph, U/SA

COPIES TO: Ambassador Conant
GER - Mr. Reinstein
GER - Mr. Margolies
GER - Mr. Miller
GER - Mr. Lampson
RA - Mr. Unger
U/SA - Mr. Rudolph

EUR -
GER Files
Embassy, Bonn.

Mr. Miller said that he had requested the meeting in order to ascertain the facts regarding the MWDP program and the present programs for recruiting of German scientists and Defense views as to what might be done in line with Ambassador Conant's recommendation in his letter of July 13, 1956, which had been sent informally to Defense to discontinue recruiting programs. Mr. Miller indicated that, while no formal position had been taken, he was sure, as he had said at an earlier date, that the Department of State would support the maximum possible accomplishment of Dr. Conant's recommendation.

Colonel Brown reviewed the status of the MWDP program. He said that Defense proposed a small dollar expenditure in FY 1957 for an MWDP program with the Federal Republic as an exception to the general rule of no further grant aid. He said that no direct payment on development contracts was proposed. The money would be spent for technical assistance, for example, visits of American consultants, special research and testing equipment, etc. Perhaps \$100,000 would be involved; technical assistance had been about one per cent of the cost of MWDP to date; this year it would be one to two per cent. Colonel Brown said that there were eight or ten German projects that Defense is surveying and probably could support. He said that the matter has not been discussed with the Germans except that we have their projects, i.e. aid has not been discussed.

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Mr. Weaver

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Mr. Weaver reviewed the history and present status of the recruiting programs. He said that about a thousand scientists and engineers had been brought to the United States from Germany and Austria under "Paper Clip", for utilization and denial purposes, the greater part in 1946-1948. "Project 63" was more a denial program. The "National Interest Cases" involved scientists and engineers who were wanted by United States Defense research or production contractors. The numbers brought under these latter two programs have not been large. Of a total of around a thousand scientists and engineers brought to this country, less than half a dozen have requested return, these for retirement or for family reasons, and all of these have been returned.

Mr. Weaver said that the whole program is now running out. During the last few years about four or five persons a month have been coming to the United States under these programs. There are now some 75 to 100 in Germany who have indicated to USAREUR that they would like to come to the United States; he said they are not generally being actively recruited, though there may be a few cases where they are. These people are coming as national interest cases and possibly a few under "Project 63". "Paper Clip" is not being used, though still at least theoretically in effect.

Mr. Weaver said that the Immigration Act of 1954 gives preference to scientists and engineers, and he believed the abolition of the programs might not actually diminish the number of scientists and engineers coming to the United States from Germany. However, there would be more delay. It is a matter of expediting entry. Under the present programs investigations are conducted rapidly and entry is speeded up.

Mr. Weaver said that he believed the programs had been handled carefully for the most part. However, in one recent instance a letter had been given to a prospective emigre scientist, who had used it to try to better his position with his firm. Mr. Weaver understood that this had been brought to the attention of Ambassador Conant and thought that the incident lay behind Dr. Conant's letter.

Mr. Miller expressed the view that emigration at the initiative of the persons concerned and even at the instigation of United States private firms would be looked on differently by the Germans than special United States Government programs. Mr. Miller and Mr. Rudolph asked whether the programs could not be formally terminated and the investigation in any cases that might later arise be handled on an ad hoc basis. It would be helpful, in addition to greatly reducing the possibility of objections, if Ambassador Conant could be in a position to tell the German Government, if there should be an inquiry, that we had terminated all organized recruiting.

Mr. Weaver

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Mr. Weaver said that Defense fully appreciates the problem and is considering how far they can go to alleviate it, including the question whether they can abolish the programs. He thought there must be some arrangement to bring out individuals on a special basis. However, it might be possible to reduce those on which the United States is active to a few cases and then handle the United States role very quietly. Others could come by normal immigration.

The Defense representatives were not sure what procedural steps would be necessary to action on the problem. However, they thought that could be determined after further consideration. They indicated that Dr. Furnas would be briefed on the subject if Ambassador Conant should wish to raise it with him.

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